

Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA-Writing)

What can districts expect in 2011?

Grades 4, 8

- Most of the writing process remains the same as in previous years.
 - One prompt – narrative (gr. 4) and descriptive (gr.8)
 - The rubric will be the same.
 - The testing window will be as announced: January 24 – February 11.
 - Materials will arrive at approximately the same time: January 6-7.
 - Student data will be shipped from NDE to DRC on December 1st.
 - The cut scores will remain the same as in previous years. DRC will be integrating 2010 papers into the training, the practice, and the scoring sets.
 - An analysis and calibration of scoring across years will be conducted to assure the appropriateness of using the same cut scores for 2011.
- Several changes will be applied to the gr. 4 and 8 writing process in 2011.
 - The materials will arrive from Data Recognition Corporation, not the NDE.
 - The materials will be in booklets with scannable paper. Students may only write in the paper provided. If sheets of paper are added to the booklets, they will not be scored.
 - Students may only write in # 2 pencil.
 - The scoring will take place in Minnesota.
 - Nebraska staff will participate in the rater training and contribute to the training materials.
 - All writing materials will be returned to DRC including the Spanish NeSA-W so that all scores may be entered into the DRC data system.
 - The electronic results will be made public before school is out, hopefully before the end of April.

Grade 11

NeSA-W – 11th Grade Online Pilot

- 11th graders will not be required to take the NeSA-W in 2011.
- Districts may elect to have their 11th graders participate in the pilot of the NeSA-W in 2011. Pilot districts will be recruited in October.
- No scores will be returned for 11th grade NeSA-W in 2011.
- No cut score process will be conducted for 11th grade in 2011.
- If Districts plan to participate in the 11th grade pilot of the NeSA-W, they can expect the following:
 - The rubric will be transitioned to an analytic rubric in the fall of 2010 and shared across the state.
 - The content of the rubric will be tightened and although most of the current criteria will remain, they will be redistributed into fewer domains.
 - The domains will be weighted.
 - A score will be provided (1-4) for each of the domains as well as a total score.
 - The following domains have been proposed but are not final:
 - Content/ideas – 35 %
 - Organization – 25%
 - Word choice/Voice – 20%
 - Conventions – 20%
 - The testing window will be January 31 – February 18. The reason the testing window begins one week later than the testing window for grades 4 and 8 is because of software installation.
 - The testing time will be recommended (not required) at 90 minutes on one day.
 - NeSA-W for grade 11 will not be a timed test, but NDE is recommending 90 minutes for scheduling.

- If students need more time than 90 minutes, that is allowable as it is for reading.
- The prompt is delivered electronically via the NeSA CAL software.
- Pre-writing may be done on paper as it has been in the past.
- Editing tools (including thesaurus, dictionary, cut/paste, spell check, and basic formatting tools) will be available for editing the final copy before submission.
- Students will have electronic access to a “Writing Checklist” that will be used in self assessment of their writing. The “Writing Checklist” will include the criteria from the scoring rubric.
- A practice test for writing will be available on January 24th. Students are strongly recommended to take the practice test before taking the pilot test.